
FIRE FACT NO. 015 CHECKLIST(s) : 06A
TITLE : SAFE EXITING FOR ASSEMBLY OCCUPANCIES
CHECKLIST ITEM(s) : 06A-01, 06A-04
REFERENCE(s) : K.S.A. 31-133
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The Kansas State Fire Marshal is responsible for adopting reasonable rules and regulations for the construction and maintenance of exits, fire alarms, smoke detection systems, and fire suppression equipment in all buildings except one and two family dwellings. As a result of inspections across Kansas, it appears that a large number of conference rooms, classrooms, restaurants, lobbies, taverns, bars, county fair buildings, youth centers and other similar spaces throughout the state may not provide an acceptable level of life safety. The exiting requirements have been the same for these spaces for more than 20 years. It is unknown how these areas became non-conforming to these requirements. It is not practical to inspect every facility statewide, but it does not diminish the expectation that owner/operators of facilities must provide safe exiting for all occupants. Single rooms or areas that provide standing or sitting space **for over 50 occupants** are considered assembly occupancies. Most of these rooms or areas in Kansas have less than 340 occupants.

A room or area is deemed to provide **SAFE exiting for 50-99 occupants** when occupants are able to evacuate unobstructed from a point in the room or area using one of two separate paths to a public way or yard. Detailed exiting requirements are:

- a) Two separate and remote exit doors leading in different directions.
- b) The opened door provides a clear opening of at least 32" x 70" to pass through.
- c) The exit doors must swing toward the outside.
- d) The exit paths are not blocked by construction or movable items.
- e) The exit paths do not go through bathrooms, storage rooms, closets, offices, furnace rooms, shops, or other hazardous or locked rooms.
- f) The second exit door can be opened from the inside without special knowledge or effort, a tool, or a key.
- g) The main entrance/exit may have key locking deadbolts when:
 - 1) the door leads directly to the outside with no other doors to pass through, **and**
 - 2) the doors are unlocked when occupied, **and**
 - 3) a sign is provided at the door which reads, "This door to remain unlocked when occupied" (occupied means by any non-employees), **and**
 - 4) it is clear and obvious when the door is locked.
- h) Exit signs must be provided over exit doors. The signs must be readable and illuminated, either internally or externally.
- i) Emergency lighting must be provided in the room and in the entire exit path. The minimum emergency light level needed is similar to the visibility provided during an evening with a full moon.

If these features are not provided, your facility probably does not provide proper exiting per the Kansas Fire Prevention Code. You are expected to contact an architect or engineer for professional services to verify the condition and make any necessary changes to assure safe exiting is provided **OR you may voluntarily reduce your occupant load to 49 or fewer occupants.**



Kansas State Fire Marshal Prevention Division

FIRE FACT NO. 015 CHECKLIST(s) : 06A

TITLE : SAFE EXITING FOR 50 TO 499 OCCUPANTS

CHECKLIST ITEM(s) : 06A-01, 06A-04

REFERENCE(s) : K.S.A. 31-133

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A room or area is deemed to provide **SAFE exiting for 100-360** occupants when occupants are able to evacuate from a point in the room or area using one of two separate paths to a public way or yard unobstructed meeting requirements **a) through i)**. Additional requirements follow:

- j) The second exit must be equipped with panic hardware.
- k) Shall maintain a written emergency plan. **See Fire Fact 004**

What is a remote exit?

Remote exits are separate, distinct ways out of a room or space that are at least a specific distance apart. For a sprinklered facility, these exits must be a minimum of $\frac{1}{3}$ the room diagonal apart; in non-sprinklered facilities, they must be a minimum of $\frac{1}{2}$ the room diagonal in separation. To find the diagonal of square or rectangular room, measure from one corner to the opposite corner. (These corners will NOT be along the same wall.) This measurement is your diagonal. To find the minimum separation for your exits, divide this number by 2 or 3, depending on whether your facility is sprinklered or non-sprinklered. For an irregular or oddly-shaped room, use the two furthest points as the diagonal or consult an architect or design engineer.

Calculating the room occupancy is less important than providing adequate exits for the actual or intended use.

